

## Remarks/Arguments

### *Claim Summary*

By this Amendment, claims 1-10, 12 and 14 have been revised, new claim 17 has been added, and claims 7 and 15-16 have been cancelled.

Claims 1-6, 8-14 and 17 are now pending in the application.

### *Claim Objections*

Each of the Examiner's claim objections appearing at pages 2-3 of the Office Action have been corrected or rendered moot by the amendments contained herein.

### *Allowable Claims*

Applicants acknowledge with thanks the indicated allowability of dependent claims 4 and 5.

By this Amendment, claim 4 has been amended into independent form by incorporating the subject matter of claim 1 (without the amendments to claim 1 herein). Applicants thus contend that claims 4 and 5 are in condition for allowance.

### *35 U.S.C. §112, first and second paragraphs*

Claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first and second paragraphs, as reciting subject matter not supported by the original disclosure.

In response, the Examiner's attention is respectfully directed to amended claim 12 (from which claim 13 depends) and FIG. 7 of the present application.

As shown in FIG. 7, and as recited in claim 12, each pulse of the first control pulse signal (FRP) is delayed relative to each pulse of the clock signal (PCLK) by a first delay (the left-most arrow in FIG. 7), and each pulse of the second control pulse signal (SRP) is delayed relative to each pulse of the clock signal (PCLK) by a second delay (the second-to-the-left-most arrow in FIG. 7).

The initial pulse of the second control pulse signal (SRP) is delayed relative to the initial pulse of the first control pulse signal (FRP). Further, as correctly recited in

claim 13, the delay of each pulse of the first control pulse signal (FRP) relative to each pulse of the clock signal (PCLK) is greater than the delay of each pulse of the second control pulse signal (SRP) relative to each pulse of the clock signal (PCLK).

Reconsideration of the rejection of claim 13 is therefore requested.

### ***35 U.S.C. §102 and §103***

Claims 1-3 and 6-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103 as being unpatentable over Toda '465 (US 6363465), taken alone or in combination with Toda '727 (US 6449727). Applicants traverse this rejection with respect to the now-pending claims.

The Examiner's attention is respectfully directed to FIG. 7 of the present application. The present invention of the rejected claims is directed to increasing the time margin  $\Delta T2$  between at least the initial pulse of the second control pulse signal SRP and the next pulse of the first control pulse signal FRP. In the figure,  $\Delta T1$  denotes the time margin of the conventional configuration. See, e.g., paragraphs [0025] and [0026].

As also shown in FIG. 7, and as recited in independent claims 1, 6 and 9, the initial pulse of the second control pulse signal (SRP) is delayed relative to the initial pulse of the first control pulse signal (FRP), and a pulse width of the initial pulse of the second control pulse signal (SRP) is less than a pulse width of each of the pulses of the first control pulse signal (FRP). The reduced pulse width of the second control pulse signal (SRP) results in an increased time margin  $\Delta T2$  as shown in FIG. 7.

As noted by the Examiner, Toda '465 teaches the application of various clock signals to the respective stages illustrated, for example, in FIG. 8B thereof. However, it is clear that the pulse-width of the pulses which make up the clock signals are the same for each of the clock signals applied to the stages in Toda '465.

Thus, Toda '465 does not anticipate or render obvious the presently claimed invention. Further, even if Toda '465 was modified in view of Toda '727 as suggest by the Examiner, the resultant would not render obvious the presently claimed invention.

***Conclusion***

No other issues remaining, reconsideration and favorable action upon the claims 1-6, 8-14 and 17 now pending in the application are requested.

Respectfully submitted,  
VOLENTINE & WHITT, PLLC  
/Adam C. Volentine/

Adam C. Volentine  
Reg. No. 33,289

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**Customer No. 20987**  
Volentine & Whitt, PLLC  
One Freedom Square  
Suite 1260  
11951 Freedom Drive  
Reston, VA 20190  
Tel. (571) 283-0720  
Fax (571) 283-0740